

§ 254.33

- (2) Factual evidence of claim of title or color of title,
- (3) Notice given to persons encroaching on National Forest System lands,
- (4) Degree of development in the encroached upon area, and
- (5) Creation of an uneconomic remnant.

§ 254.33 Road rights-of-way.

- (a) Reserved or acquired road right-of-way parcels subject to conveyance under this subpart are limited to those which are substantially surrounded by lands not owned by the United States.
- (b) Forest Service officials shall consider public road system right-of-way needs based on National Forest transportation planning and State and local law before making any conveyance of rights-of-way.
- (c) Reimbursement will be required for the value of any improvements made by the United States or other highway authorities, unless waived by the Chief of the Forest Service.

§ 254.34 Mineral survey fractions.

- (a) Mineral survey fractions subject to conveyance under this subpart are limited to those tracts which:
 - (1) Cannot be efficiently administered because of size, shape, or location;
 - (2) Are occupied or could be occupied or used by adjoining owners; and
 - (3) When sold separately or aggregated in one transaction, do not exceed 40 acres.
- (b) Forest Service officials shall consider the following criteria in determining whether to convey mineral survey fractions under this subpart:
 - (1) The mineral survey fractions are interspersed among and are more or less an integral part of private land holdings;
 - (2) The feasibility and cost of surveying the parcels in order to manage them effectively;
 - (3) The size, shape, and location of the parcels as they affect management, utility, access, occupancy or use of the parcels or the lands with which they are interspersed.

§ 254.35 Limitations.

- (a) Lands within the National Wilderness Preservation System, the Na-

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tional Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the National Trails System, and National Monuments are excluded from any conveyance under these provisions.

- (b) Lands within National Recreation Areas may not be conveyed by sale under this subpart.

(c) The value of Federal lands conveyed in any transaction, pursuant to this subpart, shall not exceed \$150,000.

(d) Compensation for lands conveyed shall be of at least equal value, or in the case of interchange, of approximately equal value, and may be in the form of land, interest in land (including minerals), or cash, or any combination thereof.

(e) The sale, exchange, or interchange of lands or interest in lands under these rules are discretionary and shall be made only if found to be in the public interest.

(f) The abutting landowner(s) shall have the first right of acquisition.

(g) The area of land conveyed shall be limited to the minimum necessary to resolve encroachment or land management problems.

[49 FR 1185, Jan. 10, 1984; 49 FR 2762, Jan. 23, 1984]

§ 254.36 Determining public interest.

(a) The requirements of § 254.35 and of one of § 254.32, § 254.33, or § 254.34 must be met before a determination of public interest can be made.

(b) Before a conveyance is made under this subpart, such conveyance must be determined to be in the public interest.

(c) Forest Service officials shall consider the following criteria in determining when the public interest will be served:

- (1) Sale, exchange, or interchange of the affected lands is not practicable under any other authority of the Secretary;

- (2) Administration and management of National Forest System lands will be more efficient and will result in improved utilization;

- (3) Access to and use and enjoyment of National Forest System lands by the general public will not be unduly impeded or restricted;

- (4) New or extensive inholdings which would create management problems will not be established;